



State of California
Respiratory Care Board

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Inquiry: I am a Certified Pulmonary Function Technologist and I need your help with the following questions about Respiratory Care Board regulations. 1) Is it legal for a Certified Pulmonary Function Technologist to perform pulmonary function studies in a hospital setting with a physician's order? 2) Is a RCP license required to perform pulmonary studies in a hospital setting? 3) Do you know of any programs in California that allow candidates with previous respiratory care experience to challenge portions of their program in order to expedite the process of obtaining a RCP license?

Response: It is legal for a Certified Pulmonary Function Technologist to perform this function as long as they are licensed in the state of California as a Respiratory Care Practitioner. Since the NBRC currently requires successful completion of the CRT exam prior to sitting for the CPFT exam all CPFT individuals should meet the criteria to obtain licensure. The specific statute that defines this practice is section 3702 of the Respiratory Care Practice Act.

We are unaware of any programs that allow challenging the exam to expedite licensure and encourage you to contact an approved program to clarify that question for you. You can obtain a list of approved programs from the AARC web site at: www.aarc.org or at the address listed below.

American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC)
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